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The intent of the ERate program is very sound. However the implementation leaves many questions. The amount of time spent gathering data and filing for the funds is often an odious process that may not garner any funds. The ERate program has generated an entire level of bureaucracy that most likely eats up a good percentage of the funds with no benefits to schools. The millions of dollars spent nation wide to make this program run is a direct subtraction of funds going to our schools. This program needs to be greatly simplified; an example of this would be to develop a formula for each area of the country, urban, rural, suburban, and simply give out the grants on the basis of the formulas developed. This would get rid of most of the overhead and very possibly apply the money more equitably and also we would more benefits for the dollars committed to this project. With the increase in the importance of connectivity and access surrounding all our technologies in our education system the funds are sorely needed and we need to make every penny count. A simplification of the entire process may help with this. Thank you